

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 97-239-C - ORDER NO. 2003-384

IN RE: Proceeding to Establish Guidelines for an  
Intrastate Universal Service Fund.

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”) on the request of ALLTEL South Carolina, Inc. (“ALLTEL”) for an additional extension of time in which to file tariffs associated with the State Universal Service Fund. By Commission Order No. 2001-996, dated October 10, 2001, the participating companies in the instant docket were required to file their tariffs associated with the South Carolina Universal Service Fund (USF) no later than April 1 of each year.

data clearly demonstrating that implicit support exists in the rates that are proposed to be reduced. Any such tariff filings shall be made by April 1, 2003 and the Commission's decision will be rendered by August 1, 2003.

Previously, ALLTEL was granted extensions to file the Company's tariffs associated with the USF by Commission Order Nos. 2003-210 and 2003-318, whereby the deadlines were extended to May 1, 2003, and June 1, 2003, respectively. Now, ALLTEL through its counsel's letter of May 29, 2003, requests an additional extension of time until September 1, 2003, in which to file the Company's tariffs associated with the USF.

In its request, ALLTEL asserts that additional time is needed to complete the necessary cost studies and evaluate whether the Company would apply for additional State USF at this time. ALLTEL states its belief that granting this request will enable the Commission to consider all requests for additional USF funding, to the extent any additional funding is requested this year, on the same schedule. ALLTEL notes that the Commission granted the South Carolina Telephone Coalition an extension of time to make its tariff filings until September 1, 2003. Considering all requests for additional USF funding on the same schedule, according to ALLTEL, will allow the Commission to utilize its time and resources more efficiently and simplify the implementation process of an Order approving any requests for additional USF funding.

After review of ALLTEL's request, the Commission finds and concludes that the ALLTEL's request for an additional extension of time to file the Company's tariffs associated with the USF should be granted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The latest deadline of June 1, 2003, granted to ALLTEL in Commission Order No. 2003-318, shall be extended to September 1, 2003, for ALLTEL to file the Company's tariffs associated with the South Carolina Universal Service Fund.

2. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.



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Mignon L. Clyburn, Chairman

ATTEST:



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Gary E. Walsh, Executive Director

(SEAL)